

McNary National Wildlife Refuge

Hunting Regulations — Headquarters Unit



Hunting is permitted in accordance with state regulations (see wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/) and special refuge regulations.

Open to Hunting – Goose, duck, coot, snipe, and upland game birds (excluding turkey).

Closed to Hunting – All big game and all other species of wildlife not listed are protected.

Protected species include, but are not limited to, elk, deer, bear, doves, snakes, raven, crow, coyote, porcupine, turkey, cougar, squirrels, and rabbits.

Days – Hunting is only permitted on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, Thanksgiving Day and New Year's Day (not when observed) during the state waterfowl season. November 9 is reserved exclusively for youth hunters (up to 17 years old). Permit holders for Veterans Day (November 11) must be active duty service members or military veterans; others in the hunting party do not have to be veterans or active military.

Hours – The refuge is open from 1-1/2 hours before legal hunting time to 1-1/2 hours after legal hunting time. Upland game birds may only be hunted on refuge waterfowl hunting days from 12:00 noon until the close of state hunting hours. No waterfowl hunting is allowed while upland game bird hunting.

General Public Entry – Closed to all general public entry.

Firearms & Ammunition – Only shotguns are permitted and may only be discharged in accordance with FWS regulations (50 CFR 27.42) and refuge-specific regulations (50 CFR Part 32). Only federally approved non-toxic shot may be used.

Vehicle Travel and Parking – All vehicles, including bicycles, are restricted to designated motorized routes of travel and parking areas.

Boats – Non-motorized watercraft (e.g., boats, float tubes) may be used to set decoys and retrieve birds. Watercraft may not be hunted from or used to access hunting locations.

Dogs – Dogs must be kept on leash, except during the lawful pursuit of game during legal seasons.

Hunter Check Station & Procedures

Check Station Location and Hours – The Hunter Check Station is located at the McNary Office (see map) and is staffed 1-1/2 hours before legal hunting time until 7:30 a.m. and from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Fees – The day use fee is \$14/person. Season passes are available for \$96 (\$48 for federal lands pass holders). Seniors and disabled federal pass holders pay \$7; all other passes pay \$14. There are no fees for persons 17 years old and younger.

Hunting Lottery – Details can be found at www.fws.gov/mcriver/regulations/. The lottery winner must be present the day of the hunt, must have a hunting license and must hunt the entire time the blind is in use. If the lottery holder leaves, the guest(s) must leave or follow the hunting standby procedures.

Standby Hunting – After lottery hunters have selected their blinds, standby hunters will select the remaining blind sites via a random drawing.

Permits – Waterfowl hunters are required to possess and carry a special refuge permit. No permit or harvest card is required for upland bird hunting.

Blind Selection – Blind selection begins 1-1/2 hours before legal hunting time.

Blind Occupancy – A maximum of 4 persons of any age are permitted per blind.

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Check In – Prior to hunting, all waterfowl hunters and guests must check-in at the Hunter Check Station to obtain a refuge permit, pay the recreation user fee, and obtain a blind assignment. Lottery selection holders must be present 1-1/2 hours before legal hunting time. After that, they will become standby hunters.

Check Out – Hunters are required to check out at the Hunter Check Station before switching blinds or leaving the refuge. Check-out must be no later than 1-1/2 hours after the close of state hunting hours. If the Check Station is closed, hunters must drop their permit cards into the drop box.

Slough Blinds – Hunters must remain within 100 feet of blinds or marked posts unless retrieving birds or setting decoys. Blinds #2 and #8 are designated for hunters with disabilities.

Field Blinds – Consult with the Hunter Check Station attendant for details. Hunters must provide their own layout blind and will be assigned to a portion of an agricultural field. Hunters must remain within their assigned field and a minimum of 100 yards from other hunting parties. Blind #31 is designated for hunters with disabilities.

Selected Prohibited Activities

- The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting
- The use of motorized equipment, excluding wheelchairs
- Baiting of any wildlife, trapping, or netting
- Fires
- Horseback riding
- Overnight camping or parking
- Littering (including empty shotgun hulls)
- Use of ATVs and other off-road vehicles
- Commercial guiding for hunting
- Abandoning, discarding, or otherwise leaving personal property unattended
- Target shooting
- Falconry

Contact Information

McNary National Wildlife Refuge
64 Maple Street
Burbank, WA 99323
509/546-8300
Hunter Hotline: 509/546-TEAL (8325)
www.fws.gov/refuge/mcnary

